



# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Wednesday, July 23, 2008**

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**PALMER WOMAN SENTENCED TO SIX MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
CONSPIRING TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, July 23, 2008, that Kendra Butts, a resident of Palmer, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to six months imprisonment for conspiring to obstruct justice. Following completion of her sentence of imprisonment, Butts will be on federal supervised release for three years.

United States District Court Judge Ralph Beistline imposed the sentence on Butts, age 19.

According to information presented to the court by Assistant United States Attorney Kimberly Sayers-Fay, in November 2007, police apprehended two individuals who were linked to a truck that had been used in a Halloween robbery of young trick-or-treaters. One of those individuals, Michael Wilson, was a convicted felon. Wilson contacted Butts from jail and asked her to break into the truck, which was being kept in a secured impound lot. Wilson asked Butts to remove incriminating firearms or, alternatively, set fire to the truck so that evidence within it could not be used against him in an anticipated federal case. In taped telephone calls, Butts agreed to this plan to destroy evidence. Butts later reported to Wilson that she had driven by the impound lot but was unable to see her truck within it.

Judge Beistline stated that Butts deserves separate punishment for the federal crime of conspiring to obstruct justice, even though she has pled guilty to state charges, including robbery, that will cause her to be incarcerated for several years.

Mr. Cohen commends the Alaska State Troopers and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for the investigation that lead to the successful prosecution of Butts.

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